Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 TRSY-02 DODE-00 NSAE-00 USIA-06 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 /056 W

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R 232123Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2122

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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USOECD

EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS1 TAGS: COCOM, ESTC

SUBJ: NEXT CRITERIA DISCUSSIONS AND BELGIAN PROPOSAL

FOR MAJORITY VOTING

REF: A. STATE 278862; B. PARIS 31517 (NOTAL);

C. STATE 279503 (NOTAL)

1. AT NOVEMBER 22 COCOM MEETING US DEL READ STATEMENT REF A. WITH ALL OTHER DELEGATATIONS AREEING TO DECEMBER 13, IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE NEXT CRITERIA DISCUSSIONS WOULD BEGIN ON THAT DAY AT 3 P.M. CONFIDENTIAL

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2. SINCE COCOM MEETING, USDEL HAS SPOKEN TO ALL OTHER DELEGATES (EXCEPT BELGIAN AND NORWEGIAN) OFFERING OPPORTUNITY OF BILATERALS WITH U.S. PRIOR TO DECEMBER 13 AND OUTLINING POINTS PARAS 6-8 REF A. GERMAN DEL STATED IMMEDIATELY THAT HE THOUGHT IDEA OF BILATERALS WAS AN EXCELLENT ONE AND THAT BONN WOULD PROBABLY BE

THE BEST LOCATION. HE WILL BE CHECKING FURTHER WITH HIS AUTHORITIES. DUTCH DEL DOUBTED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD SEE NEED FOR BILATERALS WITH U.S. PRIOR TO DECEMBER 13. FRENCH QUESTIONED NEED OF BILATERALS WITH U.S. SINCE FRENCH POSITION ON BELGIAN PROPOSAL INCORPORATING MAJORITY VOTING IS VERY CLEAR, NAMELY FRANCE COULD ACCEPT THIS PROPOSAL IF ALL OTHER MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE AGREE, I.E., IT IS ADOPTED ON THE BASIS OF A UNANIMOUS VOTE (REF B). ALL OTHER DELEGATES ARE REPORTING U.S. DEL'S APPROACH TO THEIR AUTHORITIES.

3. MISSION NOTES THAT, ACCORDING TO REF C, DEPARTMENT

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HAS INFORMED BRITISH EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE THAT U.S. POSITION ON BELGIAN PROPOSAL FOR MAJORITY VOTING IN COCOM "NOT YET BEEN AGREED AND THAT IT WOULD BE AWKWARD FOR US TO TAKE A DEFINITIVE POSITION BEFORE OTHERS DID." US DEL WAS INSTRUCTED TO INFORM THE OTHER DELEGATES (PARA 6, REF A), THAT "USG IS DEEPLY

CONCERNED OVER THE THREAT TO THE CONSENSUS APPROACH PRESENTED BY THE BELGIAN PROPOSAL." STATEMENT MADE TO BRITISH EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE SUGGESTS THAT IT IS POSSIBLE USG COULD VOTE FOR BELGIAN PROPOSAL INCORPORATING MAJORITY VOTING DEPENDING ON HOW THE OTHER COCOM MEMBERS FINALLY COME DOWN ON THIS MATTER. MISSION REQUESTS CLARIFICATION OF DEPARTMENT'S PRESENT THINKING ON THIS POINT. IF IT IS THE POLICY OF THE USG THAT WE COULD NOT SUPPORT THE BELGIAN PROPOSAL CONFIDENTIAL

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INCORPORATING MAJORITY VOTING WE SHOULD NOW MAKE THIS CLEAR IN UNEQUIVOCAL TERMS TO THE OTHER MEMBER GOVERNMENTS WHILE MAINTAINING OUR WILLINGNESS TO SEEK OTHER MEANS TO IMPROVE COCOM OPERATIONS. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT SOME OF THE OTHER GOVERNMENTS ARE LOOKING TO THE U.S. LEAD IN THIS AFFAIR SINCE THE BELGIAN PROPOSAL IS AIMED PRIMARILY AT THE U.S. PERFORMANCE IN COCOM. SALZMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: AGREEMENT DRAFT, LOBBYING, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 23-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS34288
Document Source: CORE
Document History ID: 202

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: X1

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: D770435-1087

Format: TEL

From: PARIS USOECD Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771126/aaaaavjk.tel

Line Count: 140 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: 6cbd1e13-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EB

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 278862, 77 PARIS 31517, 77 STATE 279503

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 04-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 475067 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: NEXT CRITERIA DISCUSSIONS AND BELGIAN PROPOSAL FOR MAJORITY VOTING

TAGS: ESTC, US, COCOM

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6cbd1e13-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009